Soul Values

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Mk.8:36 For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the while world and lose his own soul?"

INTRO. Presumptuous on my part to instruct you in the facts relative to the anniversary of your order.

I.O.O.F. originated in England in 18th Cent., first as independent lodges, then 1814 the Manchester Unity was formed.

1819-Washington Lodge formed. This and others subject to Manchester Unity until 1843.

1852 The Canadian Branch was merged with the Grand Lodge in the U.S.

I know that the IMO.O.F has degrees and grips like other lodges.

That its main object is benevolence.

Since 1830 over 215 millions have been paid out for relief other than insurance.

Odd Fellows Home at Saratoga

Visiting and ministering to the sick.

I know that you have emblems and symbols.

Three links- Friendship, Love, Truth.

Cross-bones and skull- mortality

Eye- omniscience of God.

REBECCAS. I know less about the Rebeccas. They were organized in 1851, have grown to over a million in membership. Your ritual wnd work and teachings are all in keeping with those of the Odd Fellows; that you are practically what the good wife is to her husband-the better hal half.

In the Odd Fellows and Rebeccas and in all the lodges of highest standing the teaching are based on the teachings of the Bible: the emphasis is placed not on material things but on spiritual things.

Because of this fact, I have chosen a subject which will make our worship together in keeping with this fact.

Read text. Mk.8:36 For what shall it profit a man if he gain thewhole world and lose his own soul.

In the world we are confronted with fluctuations heavy losses. Just now the readjustments in all lines and among all classes is keenly felt, in some cases bringing total ruin. Sign in store windom:"The depression is over, the panic has begun."

But in the realm of the spiritual, dealing with personality, there need be no fluctuations and losses, but one continuous gain. In this real realm stocks and bonds can be kept above par, ever yielding rich dividends.

There need to be no collapse of soul!

Let us consider soul values in terms of relation ships.

I. Abiding Friendship. No treasure so dear as a true friend. The finest output of lodge or church is found in the friendships they make possible. All the teachings and standards work and associations of both lodge and church make for the highest type of friendship. According to Charles Kingsley, "A friend is one whom you can always trust, who knows the best and the worst in you, and who cares for you in spite of your faults." Is there anything in the whole wide world that can compare with it?

Dr. John Watson has told the story of a Liverpool merchant who failed in business thru no fault of his own. He came down with a crash from prosperity to poverty. When Dr. Watson called to offer sympathy and assistance, he found his friend just about as low in spirit as one ever gets. "Everything has gone," he moaned, "I have lost everything." "That's bad," said Dr. Watson, "so you've lost your reputation." "No, thank God," said the man somewhat indignantly, "my name and reputation are unsullied." "Then your wife has left you," suggested the minister. "My wife," cried his friend, his eyes blazing with anger, "my wife is an angel—loyal and kind and true. She has been a perfect brick." "I see," said Dr. Watson, "then your children have turned their backs on you." "I never seemed to know my children," said the merchant, "until this happened. They have been so brave and tender and sympathetic—I can't tell you all they mean to me just now." "My dear old chap," said Dr. Watson, "you told me you had lost everything. Why, you have lost nothing except a bag full of gold which doesn't matter. Love, loyalty, comradeship—all the really important things—are yours still. Cheer up and don't be a fool."

II. Then there is fellowship.

1. Fellowship with Nature.
Bert's delightful ride from Carmel.

Those who have eyes to see can still enjoy the riches of nature, in the mts or in the valley, on land or on sea, at sunrise or sunset, by night or by day, no matter if they have lost all their wealth, or even health.

Alda's thrill from the mts and canyons at sunset.

Wordsworth was rich in the eternal values of soul when he wrote:

"My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it whn I shall grow old,
Or let me die!"

So it is when one can ~~$$$~~ feel this kinship to nature- he has something of everlasting greatness, he is eternally rich!

III. Human fellowship. Ah, here is a beauty and a richness that is priceless. In one of John Fiske's letters to his wife there is reported a conversation which he had with Herbert Spencer, the English philosopher. Fiske had been visiting Mr. Spencer, and Mr. Spencer made the natural inquiries about Mrs. Fiske and the children in America. That night Mr. Fiske sent his wife this account of the incident: "I showed Spencer the little picture of our picnic wagon with the children inside. When I realized how lonely he must be without any wife and babies of his own, and how solitary he is in all his greatness, I had pity on him. Then as I watched him studying that picture and gazing at our children's faces I said to myself, 'That wagon-load of youngsters is worth more than all the philosophy ever concocted from Aristotle to Spencer inclusive'!" And so, we may add, more than all the gold from Croesus to Henry Ford and John D. Rockefeller. Stocks and bonds cannot compare to that treasure.

IV. The divine friendship with God.

Friendship with the living God whose very spirit gives meaning and priceless value to all other relationships. The love of God never fails. It suffers long and is kind. It beareth all things, endureth all things, The love of God as we find it in Jesus Christ is the greatest experience that can come to man. It will abide forever. It is heaven's richest treasure, heaven's everlasting wealth which you can keep forever.

For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and loose his own soul!

Christ for all institutions such as churches & lodges which place the emphasis upon soul values, making their possession the most precious treasure and the most enduring of all.

"O Earth, thou hast not any wind that blows
Which is not music. Every weed of thine,
Pressed rightly, flows with aromatic wine,
And every humble hedgerow flower that doth grow
And every little brown bird that doth sing,
Hath something better than itself, and bears
A living word to every living thing.
Albeit, holds the message unawares.
All shapes and sounds have something which is not
Of them. A spirit broods among the grass;
Vague outlines of the Everlasting Thought,
Lie in the melting shadows as they pass,
The touch of an eternal Presence thrills
The fringes of the sunset and the hills."

In 1814 found the Manchester Lodge
In 1819 the Washington Lodge
in Baltimore.
[redacted]
In [redacted] U.S. grand lodge
[redacted] U.S.
[redacted] had a separate
[redacted] was merged
[redacted] U.S.
Reber[redacted] organized in 185[redacted]
[redacted]
In 1926 the Grand Lodge of [redacted]
U.S. had a total membership of
2,180,000.